

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 04108 301516Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W  
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R 301455Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5096

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4108

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, CY, US  
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN CYPRIOT LABOR CONFERENCE

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SEK (CYPRIOT WORKERS CONFEDERATION) AND MICHAEL IOANNOU, GENERAL SECRETARY, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR DEC. 28 OSTENSIBLY TO PROTEST TURKISH EXPULSIONS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS FROM KARPASIA. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT, HOWEVER, WAS SEK'S TRIANNUAL PANCYPRIAN CONGRESS WHICH WILL BE HELD IN NICOSIA FEB 12 AND 13. IOANNOU HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN LETTERS INVITING AS GUESTS OF SEK TO THE CONFERENCE LEONARD WOODSTOCK OF UAW, GEORGE MEANY OF AFL-CIO, F. SMITH OF IAM, MORRIS PALADINO OF AAFLI AND/OR MEMBERS OF THE RESPECTIVE UNIONS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES. IOANNOU URGED EMBASSY TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE BY AMERICAN UNIONISTS WITH MANY OF WHOM SEK, AS MEMBER OF ICFTU, ENJOYED CLOSE AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS BEFORE 1974. HE STRESSED CONSIDERABLE INROADS COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA HAS MADE IN CYPRUS IN RECENT YEARS AND NECESSITY OF DEMONSTRATING TO CYPRIOT WORKERS INTEREST WEST TAKES IN THEIR FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

2. THIS IS FIRST SUCH VISIT BY CYPRIOT UNIONISTS TO EMBASSY SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1974 AND IS CLEARLY SEK'S OFFER TO BURY THE HATCHET, TO PASS BEYOND MALEVOLENT ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH POISONED ATMOSPHERE OF RECENT YEARS AND TO RESUME WARM AND MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION WHICH CHARACTERIZED THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH EMBASSY BEFORE TURKISH INVASION. EMBASSY  
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WELCOMES THIS INITIATIVE AND IS ANXIOUS TO EXPLOIT THE OPPORTUNITY WHICH IT PRESENTS. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONTACT OFFICES OF INVITED AMERICAN UNION LEADERS TO ASCERTAIN POSSIBILITY OF THEIR ATTENDING OR SENDING REPRESENTATIVES. (ACTUAL LETTERS OF INVITATION MAY NOT YET HAVE ARRIVED DUE TO SLOWNESS OF MAIL.)

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES SEK IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN GAINING AMERICAN PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE AND WOULD BE WILLING TO EXTEND INVITATION TO OTHER SUITABLE LABOR LEADERS/UNIONS WHICH MIGHT BE INTERESTED. IF NONE OF INVITEES CAN ACCEPT, DEPARTMENT MAY, THEREFORE, WISH TO SOLICIT THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER POTENTIAL INVITEES. SIMILARLY DEPARTMENT MAY KNOW OF LABOR DELEGATION WHICH WILL BE TRAVELING IN AREA AT APPROXIMATELY TIME OF CONFERENCE AND MAY BE WILLING TO DIVERT TO CYPRUS FOR TWO-DAY PERIOD.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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